



LIGHTHOUSE



BY BCGIANS, FOR BCGIANS

Editorial

As we step into 2025, January serves as a powerful reminder of the values that unite us as a nation. This month, marked by New Year, Indian Army Day, and Republic Day, offers us an opportunity to reflect on the themes of growth, responsibility, and unity.

The New Year brings with it a sense of renewal, urging each of us to embrace new beginnings and strive for progress.

On Indian Army Day (January 15), we honour the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers, who selflessly protect the nation. Their dedication inspires us to face challenges with determination and responsibility.

Republic Day (January 26) celebrates the Constitution that unites us in diversity, emphasizing justice, equality, and unity. We are reminded of our collective responsibility to uphold the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Together, these occasions teach us valuable lessons: to embrace new beginnings with optimism, uphold our shared responsibilities with sincerity, and work in unity for a brighter future. Let us carry these lessons beyond the celebrations, honouring these values every day.

Jai Hind!

By the Editorial Team



CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY IN MY SOCIETY

Our society celebrates Republic Day with great enthusiasm and joy. The flag-hoisting ceremony is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in the society premises. Residents, both young and old, gather to salute the Tricolour and sing the national anthem in unison.

Following this, cultural programs are organized, where we children showcase our talents through wonderful performances. To add more fun and excitement, a drawing competition is held with the theme "My India, My Pride." My friends and I, from various age groups, participate enthusiastically, creating colourful and imaginative artworks. The winners are rewarded, and everyone cheers for their achievements.

The celebration concludes with delicious snacks for all, leaving everyone with hearts full of pride, happiness, and a strong sense of unity and togetherness. I am eagerly looking forward to this year's memorable Republic Day celebration.

Submitted by Kaartik Shreyas Suvarna
Std. 6, DSRVB



EMBRACING FRESH STARTS AND NEW RESOLUTIONS IN THE NEW YEAR

The New Year 2025 feels like the beginning of a fresh chapter—an opportunity to explore new hobbies, grow, and strive for excellence. This year, I aim to become the best version of myself by representing my school in various competitions and working harder in subjects I find challenging.

As we all know, the New Year inspires us to set new resolutions. One of my key goals this year is to be kinder to others and to offer help whenever needed. I also aspire to become more organized, which I believe will greatly improve my daily life.

This year fills me with hope and reminds me that it's okay to make mistakes, as long as I keep learning and moving forward. I believe that small, consistent changes can lead to significant growth. With determination and effort, I'm confident that 2025 will be my best year yet.

Wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Submitted by Jiaan Mistry
Grade 6, DSRISB



LESSONS IN COURAGE FROM THE INDIAN ARMY

"The Indian Army is not just an elite force; it is a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the nation." It embodies many values such as discipline, unity, integrity, honesty, selflessness, confidence, bravery, trust, and teamwork.

One inspiring thing we can learn from the Indian Army is courage. Soldiers face dangerous situations and protect the country without fearing challenges. They risk their lives to ensure that everyone can live in peace and safety.

This courage teaches us to be brave in our own lives. While we may not face battles like soldiers, we can show courage by standing up for what is right, speaking the truth, or trying new things even if we are afraid. For example, raising your hand in class to answer a question or helping someone in need requires bravery.

The Indian Army shows us that courage doesn't mean having no fear—it means facing fear and moving forward. By learning this, we can become stronger, face difficulties confidently, and make a positive difference in the world around us. Courage inspires us to never give up, no matter how hard things seem.

Submitted by Rugved Sawant
Std. 7, BCSW



A LETTER TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

Dear Soldiers,

I am writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude as well as appreciation for your selfless service and unwavering dedication and bravery in serving our country. Your sacrifices and bravery in protecting our nation are truly admirable, and I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Knowing that you all are working to keep us safe gives me a sense of security and pride.

As a responsible citizen, I am committed to doing my part in supporting and helping you. By educating others about your valour and the importance of supporting our armed forces, I hope to foster a sense of gratitude and respect within our community.

Thank you once for your service. You are all true heroes. A big salute to each one of you.

With deepest love and affection,

Yours sincerely,

Zoya Khan
Std. 7, VBSV



INDIA THE GREAT

India the Great,
Its glory, our pride,
Making it our way for our country to shine.

The greatness it upholds with its dear hands,
It gleams high and, in the sky, towering it stands.

15th August and 26th January when our spirits uplift with
tremendous plans,
Who knows in the next few years where we will land?

With the Chandrayaan project reaching for the moon,
It's been 48 years since ISRO became a boon.

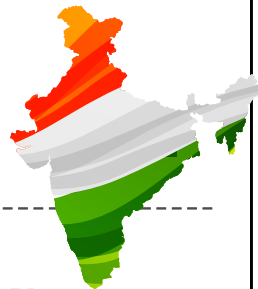
The world chess champ, who is humble,
Gukesh Dommaraju had faith in himself and he didn't let it
crumble.

Manu Bhaker - the shooting star of Indian history,
Her fantastic achievements are no longer a mystery.

PV Sindhu and Neeraj Chopra,
Each is a star athlete,
India's stars shine not only in sports but also at the G20 and
various world meets!

I wish to soon become one of the achievers who make India
shine,
And I will proudly say, "INDIA IS MINE".

Submitted by Nirjur Kaur Sethi
Std. 8, BCSE



RULE FOLLOWER; A FUTURE CHANGE MAKER

"Know how to win by following rules."

Rules are an essential part of running an organization, country or society. A perfect example of a set of rules that governs the most massive national community is our constitution. The purpose of the constitution is not just to ensure justice but also to smoothly guide the citizens to maintain law and order and to contribute to the development of the nation.

Similarly, the school rules also serve many purposes that we students are usually oblivious of. Something as small as raising hands to answer also serves the purpose of ensuring that each child has an equal opportunity and attention. Imagine if such a small rule can create such significant changes what could the potential of the larger rules be! So, why not make better choices to transform this potential into reality?

Submitted by Samiksha Kerkar
Grade 8, DSRISM



A FRESH START TO THE YEAR WITH NEW GOALS

A new year marks new beginnings to uncover new things as well as opportunities to try something new or continue with the old. After all, the New Year brings with it hope to unravel better dreams.

My resolution for this year is to ease down on my screen time. Last year I indulged a little too much in electronic gadgets but this year I'm going to replace my screen time with some of my favourite hobbies like reading, art, and dancing. It's not going to be easy but I've made a list of things to do to achieve this -

- Set time limits to my screen time
- Join art class to pursue my hobby
- Join a library so that I have a steady supply of books

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year filled with meaningful resolutions!

Submitted by **Pranavi Shettigar**
Grade 6, DSRISB



HOW SMALL ACTS OF RESPONSIBILITY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MY SCHOOL

As a student, I've learned that even small acts of responsibility can make a big difference in my school. Over the past year, I've seen how taking care of little tasks has helped improve our school and has also helped me grow as a person.

One small thing I've done is make sure I keep my classroom clean. Picking up after myself and reminding my friends to do the same has helped keep our space neat. It might seem like a tiny task, but it makes the classroom feel better for everyone.

I've also started looking out for younger students when they need help. Whether it's guiding them through a difficult task or just answering questions, I've noticed it makes a real difference for them.

Lastly, I've been getting involved in school activities, like helping set up events or decorating for special days. Working together with my classmates on these projects has made us a stronger team and brought us closer.

These small acts of responsibility have made a big difference in creating a more positive and supportive school environment for everyone.

Submitted by **Farooq Pisuwala**
Grade 9, BCISE



ONE THING WE CAN LEARN FROM THE INDIAN ARMY

The Indian army teaches us discipline, dedication, and teamwork. Their motto, "service before self", inspires us to prioritize responsibilities and selflessness. Their resilience in challenging situations shows us the value of hard work and never giving up.

As students, we can follow the rules that form the crux of the Indian Army for our self-growth –

- **Discipline:** follow rules and manage time well.
- **Respect:** be kind and respectful to everyone.
- **Focus:** stay committed to learning and self-improvement.
- **Teamwork:** work together and support each other.
- **Resilience:** face challenges with courage and positivity.

Submitted by **Amna Sofi**
Grade 7, VBSIS



LETTER TO THE SOLDIERS

Dear Soldier,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I'm a student and I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for everything you do. I can't imagine how hard your job must be, but I want you to know that I appreciate all the work you do to keep our country safe.

Sometimes, when we go about our everyday lives, it's easy to forget that there are people like you who are always out there, making sure we can live in peace and without fear. I know you face long hours and tough days, and at times may feel alone or scared. Yet, you keep going, always putting others first. Your bravery is something I truly admire.

I also know that being away from family and friends, especially at festivals, must be tough. But please know that so many of us are thinking of you and are thankful for the work you do, even if we don't always say it. Thank you for not just keeping us safe, but for showing us what it means to be strong and kind. You're a great example of what it means to care about others. I'll always remember to be thankful for the peace and safety I have because of you.

I hope you get some rest and take care of yourself when you can. You deserve it.

Once again, thank you for everything. You make such a big difference, and I am so grateful. Take care and stay safe.

Submitted by **Hasnain Ali Khan**
Std. 7, BCSW



INDIA'S 76TH REPUBLIC DAY

Beneath the skies of vibrant blue,
Our Tricolour soars, proud and true.
A land of heroes, bold and free,
India stands in unity.

Republic Day, a sacred flame,
Echoes the glory of our name.
With heads held high,
We proudly proclaim,
Our nation's honor, our lasting fame.

From the Himalayas, mighty and grand,
To the Golden deserts and Fertile land,
Every corner, every soul,
We stay together which makes us whole.

Our Constitution, justice defined,
A masterpiece of our people's mind.
With liberty's torch, we march ahead,
By the sacrifices of those who bled.

Today we rise, with hearts so wide,
To walk with justice by our side,
Today we stand proud and cherish to say,
"Jai Hind" on this 76th Republic Day.

Raavi Shinde
Grade 8, DSRISM

INTERESTING READ

The Significance of the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath

The Republic Day Parade at Rajpath, now renamed Kartavya Path, is more than just a display of military might and cultural diversity—it is a powerful symbol of India's democratic and sovereign spirit, and cultural richness, and national pride. Held annually on January 26, the parade celebrates the day our Constitution came into effect, marking the birth of modern India. It is a day when the nation reflects on its journey, achievements, and the principles of liberty, justice, and equality that guide it.

The event begins with the President hoisting the national flag and includes a grand showcase of India's armed forces, with tanks, fighter jets, and intricate drills symbolizing strength and readiness. The impressive flypast by the Indian Air Force, featuring fighter jets and helicopters, is always a highlight, symbolizing the country's technological and military advancements. Vibrant tableaux from states highlight the nation's cultural diversity, while school performances and the bravery awards inspire patriotism and a sense of national pride.

The Republic Day Parade also reflects the nation's progress. The participation of women soldiers and the presence of cutting-edge technology, such as advanced weaponry and defence equipment, highlight India's strides in gender equality and modernization.

As citizens from all walks of life watch the parade, whether in person or on television, they are reminded of their shared responsibility to protect the values that define India's identity—values of freedom, unity in diversity, and social justice. The parade unites the country in celebrating its heritage, achievements, and unwavering commitment to democracy.



PUZZLES

Quiz: Read each question carefully and choose the correct answer from the four options

1. Which of the following traditional art forms is often performed during Republic Day celebrations and is an important part of India's cultural heritage?

- a. Kuchipudi b. Kathakali c. Bharatnatyam d. All of the above

2. The cultural diversity of India is reflected in the 22 official languages recognized in the Constitution. Which of the following languages is NOT one of them?

- a. Gujarati b. Konkani c. Urdu d. French

3. Which Indian language, considered one of the oldest in the world, is still widely spoken in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka today?

- a. Telugu b. Kannada c. Tamil d. Sanskrit

4. The Indian Constitution, adopted on Republic Day, January 26, 1950, recognizes the linguistic diversity of India. How many languages are officially recognized in the Constitution's Eighth Schedule?

- a. 22 b. 29 c. 35 d. 16

4. a) 22

3. c) Tamil

2. d) French

1. d) All of the above

Answer Key:

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Instructions: Spot the difference in the two pictures



6. The boy's t-shirt is plain without a design
7. One wing is missing from the fan in the girl's hand
8. One cloud towards the extreme left is missing
9. One tree behind the boy is missing
10. The colour of father's shirt is different

1. The green kite is missing
2. There are 5 birds
3. The colour of the sun is white
4. The shadow of the parents is missing
5. There are 2 houses in the background

Answers: In the picture on the right

MATCHING

Instructions: Match the New Year's tradition/custom on the left with the country it belongs to on the right.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Eating 12 grapes at midnight | A. Japan |
| 2. Fireworks and lion dances | B. Spain |
| 3. Jumping over waves on New Year's Eve | C. Brazil |
| 4. The first person to enter the home must bring good luck | D. Scotland |
| 5. Wearing polka dots | E. Philippines |
| 6. Enjoying "good luck" food called osechi-ryori | F. Greece |
| 7. Lighting bonfires and playing drums | G. United States |
| 8. Fireworks and a huge dinner celebration | H. Mexico |
| 9. Smashing a pomegranate by the front door on New Year's Day | I. Italy |
| 10. Celebrating with a huge parade, watching a ball drop at midnight | J. Thailand |

Answer Key:

1. Eating 12 grapes at midnight — B) Spain

In Spain, it is a tradition to eat 12 grapes, one for each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve, for good luck in the coming year.

2. Fireworks and lion dances — J) Thailand

In Thailand, the New Year celebrations are marked by fireworks and lion dances, especially during the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival).

3. Jumping over waves on New Year's Eve — C) Brazil

In Brazil, especially along the coast, people celebrate New Year's Eve by jumping over seven waves for good luck and making wishes for the year ahead.

4. The first person to enter the home must bring good luck — D) Scotland

In Scotland, it's a custom to have the first person who enters the home on New Year's Day bring good luck for the family.

5. Wearing Polka dots — E) Philippines

In the Philippines, people don the coin-like print to attract financial prosperity.

6. Enjoying "good luck" food called osechi-ryori — A) Japan

This is a traditional Japanese cuisine that is an essential part

of the New Year's celebration, prepared and shared by families and close friends, carrying deep meanings and wishes for prosperity, health, and longevity.

7. Lighting bonfires and playing drums — I) Italy

In Italy, it's a ritual of transformation that involves burning things from the past that they want to release. They build bonfires so big that they need ladders to reach the top, and then they light them up and celebrate around them all night!

8. Fireworks and a huge dinner celebration — H) Mexico

Most important on our list of Mexican New Year's Eve traditions is the New Year's Eve food! The night before New Year's in Mexico, on 31st December, it's traditional to have a big dinner.

9. Smashing a pomegranate by the front door on New Year's Day. — F) Greece

In Greece, it's tradition to smash a pomegranate by the front door on New Year's Day. The more seeds that spread out, the more fortune you can expect.

10. Celebrating with a huge parade, watching a ball drop at midnight — G) United States

Americans celebrate by watching the iconic ball drop, in Times Square, marking the transition into the new year with performances and festivities.



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Instructions: Unscramble the following words related to our country

1. Raepad

(takes place on Independence Day and Republic Day)

2. Tutioncostin

3. Eackocp

4. Tioloruc

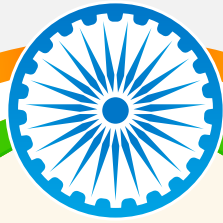
4. Tricolour

3. Peacock

2. Constitution

1. Parade

Answer Key:



ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Submitted by Vivaan Sharma
Std. 8, VBSV

CELEBRATING THE ILLUSTRIOUS BCG ALUMNI

Dream Big – Set Goals – Take Action



Siddharth Gunaseelan
Batch of 2017

Junior Business Analyst working with the U.S. government
(Department of Health and Human Services)

HOW RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP STARTS IN SCHOOL

Dear Students,

Responsible citizenship begins in school as it lays the foundation for understanding rights, duties, and the importance of community engagement. When you engage in discussions in the classroom, collaborate on projects, and resolve conflicts, all of you learn the importance of respect, cooperation, and working together for the benefit of the community.

The school has played an important role in shaping your attitude toward civic responsibility by teaching you about the government, society, and the democratic process. You have been introduced to the principles of democracy, justice, and the rule of law. You have learned about the responsibilities you have as individuals in society, such as voting, respecting others' rights, and contributing to the common good.

To become a responsible citizen, ensure you practice good decision-making and the right behaviour. Think critically and make choices that are ethical and align with your values. Participate in civic life, whether it's through voting when you are eligible, volunteering, or advocating for social change.

Ultimately, the lessons learned in school about respect, responsibility, and community involvement form the building blocks of citizenship. As you grow and mature, use the tools you gathered in school to become informed, active, and responsible citizens in society.

Ms. Shagufta Ansari
Teacher – Secondary Section
VBSIS – VBSV



Did you like our newsletter? Do send your feedback and share your stories of positivity in real life.
Be a part of the movement to build a positive and a harmonious society
Write to us at lighthouse.bcg@gmail.com